

engaged in the struggle for human rights. We stand with all those who uphold the right of women and men to self-expression, self-determination, and a decent standard of living for themselves and their families. We stand for the efforts of all women to have an equal voice and representation in their communities and nations. We stand for connection, not division: for building bridges of understanding across every divide.

We celebrate the power of mothers, sisters, and daughters to nurture the feminine in themselves and others, to remind us that we win when we win together and we all lose when we practice violence, revenge, demeaning the 'other' and spreading fear of those who are different from ourselves. Women by every name have the same message, and it's our message too: Love and respect one another, and win peace by peaceful means—voice by voice, peace by peace.

VINNY PADILLA

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Vinny Padilla for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Vinny Padilla is a 7th grader at Drake Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Vinny Padilla is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Vinny Padilla for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all his future accomplishments.

A TRIBUTE TO DONNA JONES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Donna Jones.

With an entertainment career that expands over thirty years, Ms. Jones has been using her talents to educate and expose others to the industry. Graduating from high school at the age of fifteen, Ms. Jones set out to take over the world by being the first black traveling journalist. Her career began at NBC (Channel 4), where she worked on a variety of popular shows, such as Saturday Night Live and The Cosby Show.

While attending a Saturday seminar at her alma mater L.I.U., Ms. Jones met Spike Lee, Monty Ross and other members of 40 Acres and a Mule Filmworks. They introduced her to comedienne/actress Phyllis Yvonne Stickney, who she started managing personally and pro-

fessionally. From there, Ms. Jones found herself negotiating contracts and business deals throughout the entertainment industry. When Ms. Stickney became the opening act for Patti LaBelle, fortune smiled upon Ms. Jones once again and she became part of the LaBelle team, putting together traveling tours.

Being the constant networker, Ms. Jones had continuous opportunities to meet industry leaders and work on large films, TV shows and other projects. Ms. Jones eventually transitioned to work with Virginia Tech University's School of the Arts Management Team. While at Virginia Tech, she also obtained a Master's Degree and produced shows educating the community on the tremendous work of Moms Mabley, Paul Lawrence Dunbar and Denmark Vesey.

With her writing, organizational and networking skills, Ms. Jones is always reaching out to others to afford them an opportunity to realize their own dreams and goals. Understanding the impact the industry has on young minds, she formed the organization LEAD Inc. The organization exposes young adults in failing schools to thousands of jobs that support the entertainment business and allows these individuals to put together the parallels between entertainment and education.

Ms. Jones is grateful for her opportunities to work with Congressman EDOLPHUS "ED" TOWNS, Senator John Sampson, and other local politicians; these experiences increased her ability to help others. Ms. Jones attributes her achievements to God first who orchestrates our journeys and her wonderful family who exposed her early to the business of entertainment. But she is most proud of the person she is and the character they have imparted in her. "When God uses my hands to help others realize their journey, it frees me to complete the journey he has designed for me!"

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Donna Jones.

RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER AS FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as Family History Month.

The study of family history gives individuals a sense of heritage and sense of responsibility in carrying out a legacy that their ancestors began. The involvement of national, state, and local officials in encouraging genealogy and providing family history records in archives and libraries is an important factor in the successful perception of nationwide participation and support. Our nation's libraries and archives hold treasured records that detail the history of our nation, states, communities, and citizens. Increasingly, individuals across our nation are embarking on genealogical journeys, discovering who their ancestors were and learning how various forces have shaped their pasts.

In the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is a high level of interest in genealogy and family history research throughout the state. Vir-

ginians contribute to our commonwealth's rich cultural diversity and history, and it is important to recognize the positive contributions to our society made by people throughout the history of our commonwealth. Through genealogical research, Virginians are finding renewed interests in history, languages, laws, and social science. Virginia's libraries and archives contain records of history that detail the background of the Commonwealth of Virginia, our communities and our citizens. There are over 250 genealogical and historical societies, archives and libraries throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia to assist with family history research.

Several genealogical research organizations and centers exist in Northern Virginia that include hundreds of members, giving significant research opportunities to the communities of Northern Virginia such as Fairfax County, which is an ethnically diverse jurisdiction in which nearly everyone has a family origin from another place. One such organization, the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society, has almost 300 paid members with 100 individuals meeting monthly and volunteers assisting the general public at its research center. The Fairfax Genealogical Society has approximately 400 members with over 100 individuals meeting monthly, and holds both a fall and spring conference. Within the Washington area, there are up to 40 lectures, seminars, and conferences in a month.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing October as Family History Month and celebrating the preservation of family and heritage within our communities, states, and nation.

RECOGNIZING THE EXCHANGE CLUB'S CELEBRATION OF 100 YEARS OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 14, 2011

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the National Exchange Club as it celebrates a centennial of service. The National Exchange Club—a service organization with 700 clubs and over 22,000 members throughout the United States and Puerto Rico—will begin celebrating its 100th anniversary March 27, 2011, with celebration events occurring throughout the year.

To kick-off this milestone, the Exchange Clubs of the Toledo area will host a special ceremony on the date of the anniversary, Sunday, March 27, 2011, with dignitaries, members and guests at the National Headquarters located in the city of Toledo. A display of 100 American Flags on the front lawn will greet visitors who will be able to view a Freedom Shrine featuring a collection of 29 original historic documents chronicling our nation's journey to freedom, including the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence and several Presidential addresses.

Founded on March 27, 1911 in Detroit, Michigan by businessmen who wanted to "exchange" ideas, the Exchange Club moved its headquarters to Toledo, Ohio, in 1917. Through a century, its volunteer efforts have supported the needs of the country and of local communities, making it the country's oldest American service organization operating exclusively in the United States.